

BEPM Newsletter

2008 — QUARTER 1

February 28, 2008

Black History Month Emphasis Edition

Carter G. Woodson & The Origins of Multiculturalism

Black History Month was established in 1976 by African-Americans for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. The month-long celebration was an expansion of Negro History Week, which was established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, director of what was then known as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

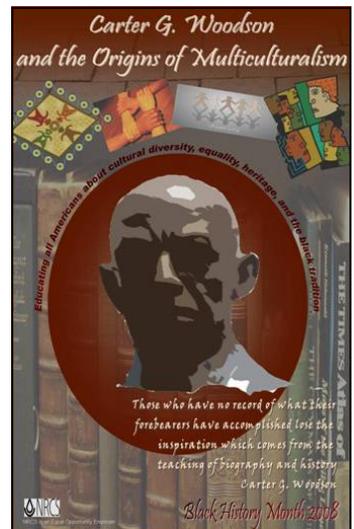
During his time, Woodson broadened the scope of the celebrating black history in three significant ways. First, he conceived of the event as a national celebration, sending out a circular to groups across the United States. Secondly, he sought to appeal to both whites and blacks and to improve race relations. For this reason, he chose President Lincoln's birthday as

well as Frederick Douglass'.

Finally, Woodson viewed Negro History Week as an extension of ASNLH's effort to demonstrate to the world that Africans and peoples of African descent had contributed to the advance of history. Each year, ASNLH would select a national theme and provide scholarly and popular materials to focus the nation's "study" of Negro history. As such, Negro History Week was conceived as a means of undermining the foundation of the idea of black inferiority through popular information grounded in scholarship.

The theme, chosen by the founders of Black History Month, for 2008 is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism."

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_history_month



The 2008 USDA — NRCS Black History Month Poster is pictured above and was designed by Jennifer Abbey, a Soil Conservationist in Se-

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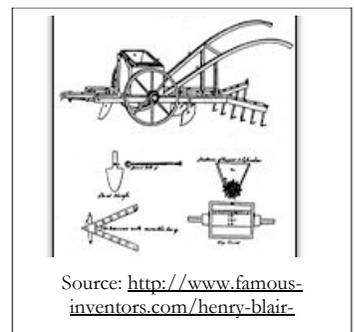
Information Compiled by Missouri NRCS BEPM (Black Emphasis Program Manger) Sharita Thomas.

To contact, please e-mail sharita.thomas@mo.usda.gov

Black Inventions in Agriculture: Henry Blair

Henry Blair was the second African American inventor to be given a patent. He was born in Maryland around 1807 and received a patent on October 14, 1834 for his seed planter invention. He was listed in the records of the Patents office as "a colored man."

In 1836, Henry received another patent, this time for a specialized planter for cotton. Considering the economic impact of the Agricultural industry in America at that time, these were truly huge advances, which would allow more crops to be planted in less time.



Source: <http://www.famous-inventors.com/henry-blair>

Did You Know?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most influential leaders of the civil rights movement and became the first black American to be honored as *Time* magazine's Man of the Year in



The Missouri Compromise of 1820

The Missouri Compromise was an agreement passed in 1820 between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions in the United States Congress, involving primarily the regulation of slavery in the western territories. It prohibited slavery in the former Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north except within the boundaries of the proposed state of Missouri.

Prior to the agreement, the House of Representatives had refused to accept this compromise and a conference committee was appointed. The United States Senate refused to concur in the amendment, and the whole measure was lost. During the following session (1819-1820), the House passed a similar bill with an amendment

introduced on January 26, 1820, by John W. Taylor of New York allowing Missouri into the union as a slave state.

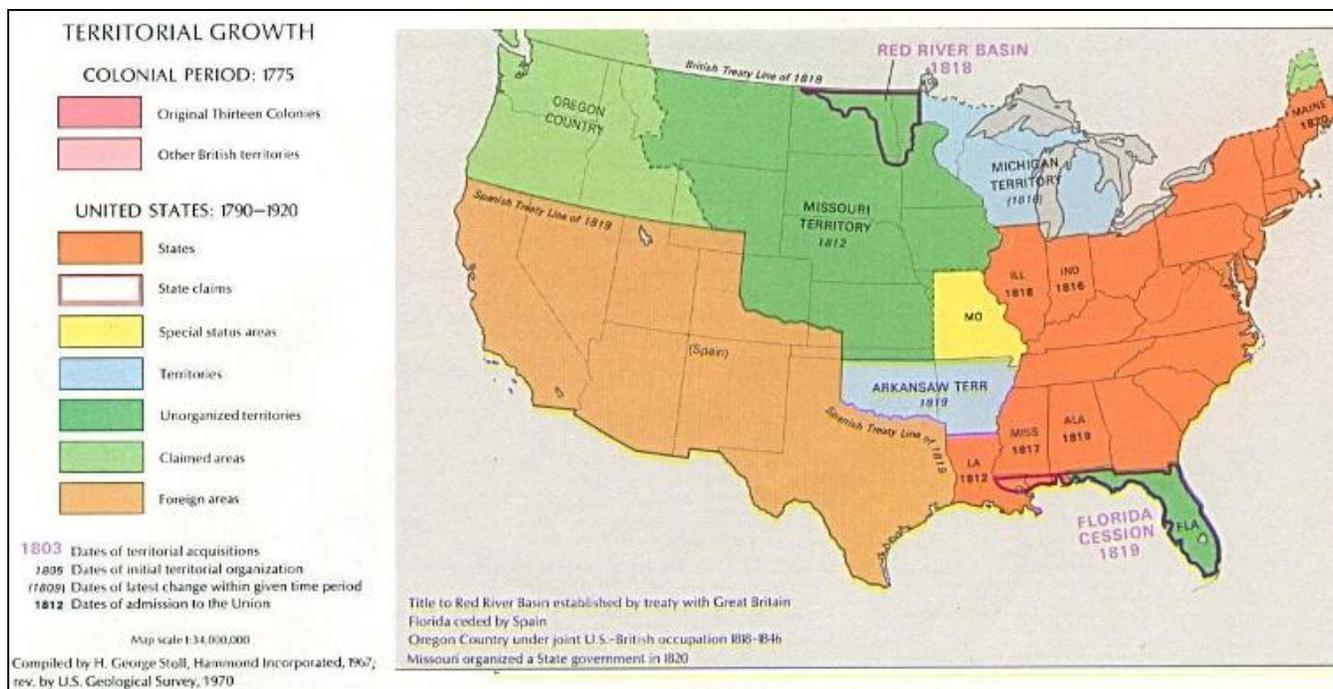
In the meantime, the question had been complicated by the admission in December of Alabama, a slave state (the number of slave and free states was now becoming equal), and by the passage through the House (January 3, 1820) of a bill to admit Maine as a free state. The Senate decided to connect the two measures, and passed a bill for the admission of Maine with an amendment enabling the people of Missouri to form a state constitution.

Before the bill was returned to the House, a second amendment was adopted on the motion of Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois, excluding slavery from the Missouri Territory north of the parallel 36°

30' north (the southern boundary of Missouri), except within the limits of the proposed state of Missouri.

Eventually, in repeal, the provisions of the Missouri Compromise forbidding slavery in the former Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north were effectively repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, despite efforts made to fight the Act by prominent speakers, including Abraham Lincoln in his "Peoria Speech." Provisions relating to forbidding slavery in territories were ruled unconstitutional in the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* case in 1857. In summary, The Missouri Compromise is responsible for banning slavery north of the southern boundary of Missouri.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_Compromise



The United States in 1820. The Missouri Compromise prohibited slavery in the Unorganized territory of the Great Plains (dark green on the map) and permitted it in Missouri (yellow on the map) and the Arkansas Territory (lower blue area on the map).

Blacks in Government Today

Two black Americans have held roles among the most powerful people in the world. In 2005, Dr. Condoleezza Rice became the first-ever black woman to be appointed Secretary of State, the President's top adviser on foreign affairs. Before Rice, the post was held by Colin L. Powell, the first African American to have the job. He was appointed in 2001.

Rice (pictured in top right corner) grew up in

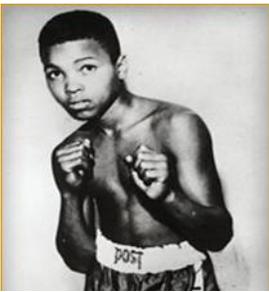
Alabama during a time when segregation and racism were rampant. She went to college at the age of 15, served on former President George Bush's National Security Council, and became the youngest, first female, and first non-white provost at Stanford University. In 2001, Rice became the first black Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs as the National Security Adviser.

Powell (pictured below Rice) grew up in a poor area of New York City, but was determined to work his way out of it. A professional soldier for 35 years, Powell became the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989, where he was the principal military adviser to the president serving in the nation's most prestigious military position.

Source: <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/kids/specials/articles/0,28285,408388,00.html>



Guess Who??? When They Were Young...



Former World Heavy-weight Champion



TV Star, Business-woman, & Billionaire



Famous song writer & Musical Genius



Professional Golfer

(sdooW regIT .4 rednoW civetS .3 yerfniW harpO .2 ilA dammahuM .1)

Did you Know?

Madame C.J. Walker moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1887 and became America's first black woman millionaire.



Historical Black Landmark in Missouri

This issue's black landmark in Missouri is the Mt. Moriah black church in located in Cooper County at Otterville, Missouri (twelve miles east of Sedalia).

The image to the right was taken by Tracy L. Wilson-Kleecamp on her visit to Missouri in a quest to find out

more about her ancestors. She writes about how Missouri was not a "neutral" state but was a slave state. She also gives information on the fact that the highest concentration of African American/Native American slaves were located in the Missouri River counties such as Buchanan, Jackson, Lafayette,

Saline, Callaway, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Boone, Pike, Marion, St. Louis and many other counties of Missouri. For more information, you may visit her site at: www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/topic/afro-amer/indexusg.html

Source: <http://blackmissouri.com/digest/mt-moriah-black-church-in-otterville-missouri.html>



Historical Black Church—Mt. Moriah in Otterville, MO

African American Timeline of History

1619—The first African slaves arrive in Virginia.

1793—Eli Whitney’s invention of the cotton gin greatly increases the demand for slave labor.

1820—The Missouri Compromise bans slavery north of the southern boundary of Missouri.

1849—Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes one of the most effective leaders of the Underground Railroad.

1861—The confederacy is founded as the deep South secedes, and the Civil War begins.

1863—President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “all persons held as slaves” within the Confederate states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

1865—The Civil War ends and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, prohibiting slavery.

1868—Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified saying individuals born or naturalized in the U.S. are American citizens, including those born as slaves.

1870—Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, giving blacks the right to vote.

1909—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded by prominent black and white intellectuals and led by W.E.B. Du Bois.

1920s-1930s—The Harlem Renaissance fosters a new black cultural identity for literary, artistic, and intellectual aspects.

1954—Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS declares that racial segregation in schools is unconstitutional.

1955—Emmett Till was brutally murdered and Rosa Parks actions led to the bus boycott.

1963—Dr. Martin Luther King gives his famous “I Have a Dream Speech.”

Source: www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmtimeline.html

Inspirational Quotes by famous Black Americans



Anna J. Cooper
1858 - 1964

"The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class--it is the cause of human kind, the very birthright of humanity"



Bill Cosby
1937 -

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."



Coretta Scott King
1927 - 2006

"Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated."

Source: http://blackhistorydaily.com/black_quotes/index.html

Information Compiled by Sharita Thomas-Missouri Black Emphasis Program Manger-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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